

**Amendments to the Specification:**

**Replace the paragraph on pg. 16, line 35, bridging page 17, beginning with “When a group member”, with the following amended paragraph:**

-- When a group member wishes to sign a message stored in a personal computer 28, that member inserts a smart card 21<sub>1</sub> into the card reader 26 connected to the computer 28. The calculation means 25 of the smart card 21<sub>1</sub> connect to the memory space of the server 20 or the associated storage means 36[[, 36]] in which a directory is stored via the personal computer 28 and the network 23.--